An Island Village

Yes, Robert Louis Stevenson, for lie was here in 1888. He himself, with his wife, his mother and his step-son sailed in the schooner yacht *Casco* at the end of June from San Francisco, arriving in the Marquesas at the end of July and in Tahiti during the first week of November—the beginning of the rains. The *Casco* required re-masting, and for this purpose the Stevenson family abode awhile in Papeete, but, Robert Louis Stevenson falling ill, they went to live in this district of Tautira.

Here he practically wrote " The Master of Bal-lantrae," which thus becomes a Tahitian book. From this village he dateii a number of letters in praise of its beauty and of its people. Indeed he might have remained there for ever if—in point of fact, though it does not appear in the letters—he had not found the continual trade winds made an atmosphere too temperate for his condition. It is

easy to show that he would have liked to have done so.

" Tautira (the Garden of the World).

" *November,* 1888.

" . . . Whether I have a penny left in the wide world, I know not, nor shall know, till I get to